

Thames River Basin Partnership

October 21, 2008 Meeting notes

Attendance: Meeting notes of July 15, 2008 approved by consensus.

Special Presentation: J. Pillo, TRBP Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint slide show on the history and current status of the Phragmites control project at Poquetanuck Cove. Herbicide treatments in the cove began September 30, 2008. Funding has been obtained to pay for two additional years of herbicide treatments. Suggestions for additional complementary activities in the cove project area were made, participating in the Christmas bird count to document the overwintering waterfowl populations; invite birding enthusiasts to look for seaside sparrows and other high risk bird species of greatest conservation need; educate people about other rare plant communities in the watershed including a pitch pine/scrub oak community on the north shore.

Financial Report

Date	Description	Income	Outgo	Balance
7/10/08	Starting balance			\$ 1,507.83
7/22/08	R. Cutler FW	\$25		
7/24/08	E. Szruba FW refund		\$25	
7/29/08	NEIPCC social marketing workshop		\$20	
9/30/08	Antivirus software renewal fee		\$69.99	
	Ending balance			\$ 1,417.84

There may be 2 Floating Workshop fees still unpaid, and several outstanding small miscellaneous receipts to be turned in

TRBP Coordinator's Activity Log July 16 – October 21

Due to the timing of the unexpected injury to Bill Moorhead, the TRBP Coordinator was needed to fill in as the Project Manager for the Poquetanuck Cove Plant Community Monitoring Project. It was originally expected that this project phase would have been completely outsourced. A minimum of 100 hours were spent consulting with experts, developing sampling protocols and preparing training materials for the volunteers that were recruited to be involved. A special webpage of information developed for the volunteers can be viewed at http://www.thamesriverbasinpartnership.org/phrag_monitoring_volunteer_info.htm.

Bill Moorhead was hired to create the Vegetation Map required for this project phase. Dr. Scott Warren was hired to train the volunteers how to identify the most common plant types that would be found in Poquetanuck Cove (August 11, 2008). The PCPC recruited volunteers, continued to obtain permission slips for the P. Cove herbicide treatments from property owners. Some data

stations were not monitored this year. A meeting was coordinated with Bill Moorhead and the DEP WHAMM staff to review NDDDB species found in cove and to discuss a strategy to avoid herbicide overspray to these non-target plants species. The first day of herbicide treatment was September. Next steps include compiling the data sheets into a spreadsheet (Avalonia volunteers being recruited for this task) and filing the final report to the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Volunteers will be updated on the project success at a function later this year, possibly in November. The ECCD will submit an invoice to Avalonia for the remaining PFWF funds to pay for my time as project manager.

July 28 Attended meeting to review of the draft 2008 Water Quality Assessment Report presented at DEP in Hartford

August 11 presented TRBP introduction to Plant Community Survey project for Poquetanuck Cove and attended the training event.

August 25 organized and led P. Cove tour with DEP WHAMM staff and botanist Bill Moorhead.

September 9 attended a “Getting Your Feet Wet in Social Marketing” Workshop sponsored by NEIWPC.

September 13 conducted Rapid Bioassessment training to 15 people in Ashford. This program highlights the impacts of nonpoint sources of water pollution on aquatic organisms. This training event was planned in the Natchaug watershed to coordinate with the Natchaug Basin Conservation Action Planning workshop series planned by Naubesatuck Watershed Council, The Nature Conservancy and WINCOG.

September 20 participated in Celebrating Agriculture Day at the Woodstock Fairgrounds. Presented “Learn What Not to Burn” campaign as TMDL outreach for Mercury

September 26 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced 2008 Long Island Sound Futures Fund awards. The ECCD, on behalf of the TRBP, was awarded \$6000 in support of the 2009 Floating Workshop, including some funding for the TRBP Coordinator’s time to plan this event.

October 1 Attended the CT Invasive Plant Working Group Symposium and presented a poster on “Partnering to Project Poquetanuck Cove”

October 7 Presented TRBP/TLGV WQM Program Coordinator update via a PowerPoint presentation to ECCD Board at the annual meeting

October 15 Submitted grant application to Tom’s of Maine requesting funds for TRBP Coordinator time.

October 15 ECCD submitted a 319 grant for the TRBP Coordinator to develop a Watershed Plan for the Lower Natchaug. Support for this application was received from WINCOG and the Towns of Windham and Mansfield.

October 19 Led “Walktober” event highlighting non-point sources of water pollution from area landuse activities.

The TRBP Floating Workshop IX is scheduled for June 12, 2009. The ECCD was awarded a \$6000 grant from the Partners for Fish and Wildlife on behalf of the TRBP to plan and carry out this workshop. The theme of the workshop will focus on sources of nitrogen from inland point and non-point sources and their impact on Long Island Sound, including Norwich Harbor, that seasonally experience hypoxia. Prior to the workshop, a survey for municipal officials and land use regulators will be created and distributed to all Thames watershed towns to help focus the workshop on the needs of the participants. A committee was formed to begin the process beginning with a teleconference to overview the goals stated in the grant application.

S. Gravatt updated the TRBP on the status of the TRBP Coordinator grant funding.

- Year 1 319 grant covered from April 06 – April 07 – completed
- Year 2 319 grant covered from April 07 – April 08 – completed
- Year 3 319 grant covered from April 08 and expected to fund through April 09
- PFWF Floating Workshop to cover through July 09
- 319 grant funds for a Water Quality Improvement Project at Mashamoquet Brook to begin in June 09 but will not cover for TRBP Coordinator duties
- Several other grants of varying duration and amounts have been applied for, but unless additional funding is secured, the staff TRBP Coordinator time will be greatly reduced.

Partner’s Reports have been consolidated into the [TRPB Partners in Action Report](#). A copy of this report was forwarded to an e-distribution list posted to the TRBP website.

The next meeting of the Thames River Basin Partnership is scheduled for January 20, 2009 in a location TBD. Holly Drinkuth will ask Ken Metzler to present an overview of his analysis of ecoregional habitats in the Last Green Valley

Next steps:

Winter meeting date scheduled for January 20, 2009. Location TBA.

Meeting notes respectfully compiled by Jean Pillo, TRBP Coordinator